

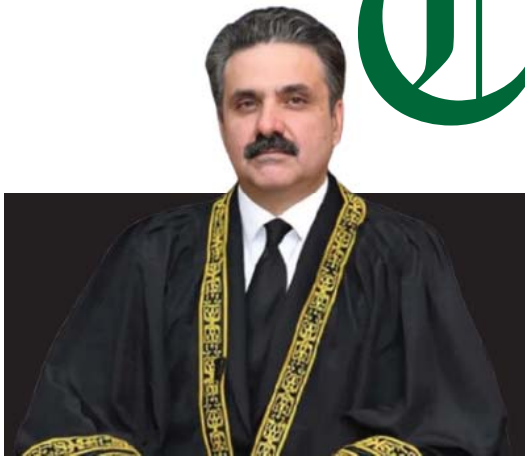
Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فہرمان رسول
سید نے بیان کیا ان سے قرآن نے بیان کیا اور اس رشی اللہ عنہ نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے یہی حدیث بیان کی اور اس رشی اللہ عنہ نے کہا ہر شخص پر سے اس دنیا سر لینے ہوئے روز ہاتھ اور حق سے اللہ کی پناہ مانگنا ہوتا ہے کہ ہر ہاتھ کہ جس اللہ سے تتر کی برائی سے پناہ مانگے ہوں۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 7090)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



CJP opposes full court formation

In response to Supreme Court judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's letter on the 26th Constitutional Amendment, Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi opposed on Friday the formation of a full court and the majority of the Judicial Commission members supported his stance.



SC schedules hearing in Arshad Sharif's murder case

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has scheduled the hearing of the suo-motu notice in the case pertaining to the murder of a senior journalist. Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan has constituted a seven-member constitutional bench for the hearing of the suo-motu notice. The constitutional bench of the Supreme Court will hear the Arshad Sharif suo-motu case on December 9.

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Group Photo

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop in Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, on Friday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan Navy fully prepared to defend country's maritime borders: PM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday stressing the strategic importance of maritime security said Pakistan Navy was fully prepared to defend the sea boundaries of the country.

Addressing the closing session of the 7th National Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW) at the Navy War College in Lahore, the PM lauded the Pakistan Navy's unwavering commitment towards playing a significant role in maintaining national security.

Terming blue economy vital for economic prosperity, PM Sharif lauded Pakistan Navy's proactive measures to harness maritime

resources for the nation's development.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said Gwadar Port due to its strategic location was a cornerstone of Pakistan's economic future and blue economy. He highlighted Gwadar Port's role in the development of regional trade and connectivity and stressed streamlining of processes at the port to facilitate importers and exporters.

He expressed a strong commitment to leveraging maritime resources for economic progress and enhancing national security.

He also acknowledged China as a vital partner, expressing gratitude for its steadfast cooperation in the maritime domain.

Sharif also emphasized equipping the Karachi Port Trust with modern technology to execute loading and unloading of consignments from across the world.

He highlighted the importance of National Shipping Corporation and announced to re-establish it in accordance with the commercial needs.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction that Pakistan had ample talent and resources, however stressed the need to utilize them properly to get rid of the shackles of debt.

He expressed the government's firm resolve to eliminate terrorism across the country and paid rich tribute to the martyrs of

the armed forces for their great sacrifices during anti-terrorism operations.

He told the participants that the meetings of the Apex Committee were held regularly which aimed at ensuring peace and security in the country.

Earlier, PM Sharif was received by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, upon his arrival at PN War College.

In his welcome address, Commandant Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, provided an overview of workshop's activities.

A panel of participants presented a paper containing recommendations for a National

Maritime Policy. The panel analyzed the maritime environment, highlighting its impact on national security and economic prosperity, and proposed measures to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

The participants included parliamentarians, policymakers, bureaucrats, academics, entrepreneurs, armed forces officers, and media representatives.

The Maritime Security Workshop is an annual event organized by Pakistan Navy to enhance understanding of maritime security dynamics, create awareness about Blue Economy, and explore Pakistan's untapped maritime potential.

London Police closes case against attack on Qazi Faez Isa in London

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The City of London Police has concluded its investigation into a complaint filed by the Pakistan High Commission concerning an alleged attack on retired Justice Qazi Faez Isa and the High Commission's diplomatic vehicle. The incident occurred on October 28th outside Middle Temple, allegedly involving activists from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

The High Commission, acting on instructions from the Pakistani Foreign Office, filed the complaint and provided the police with video footage of the incident, both from publicly available sources and their own security cameras. They also cooperated fully with a subsequent visit from four police officers who sought further information.

The police investigation, however, determined that the available evidence was insufficient to bring charges against any individuals involved in

the incident. Sources within both the High Commission and the City of London Police confirmed that the case has been closed due to a lack of sufficient evidence to meet the threshold for prosecution.

The High Commission stated that they followed all necessary procedures in filing the complaint and cooperating with the investigation.

The incident, which involved PTI protesters stopping and banging on Justice Isa's car as he departed Middle Temple after being appointed Master Bench, was widely circulated on social media.

Video footage showed Justice Isa and his wife shielding themselves from the protesters.

The contrasting response in Pakistan saw the government place 23 individuals allegedly involved in the London incident on a passport control list, effectively revoking their passports.

This highlights the significant difference in the handling of the incident between the UK and Pakistan. The City of London Police's decision to close the case underscores the high evidentiary standard required for criminal prosecution in the UK.



JUI gives govt December 8 deadline over Madrasah Registration Bill



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) has issued an ultimatum to the federal government, demanding the passage of the Madrasah Registration Bill by December 8.

The party's warning follows President Asif Zardari's rejection of the bill, sending it back to the government with objections. A special session of the National Assembly is expected to be convened next week to address the issue.

JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghouri revealed that the party has been informed of international pressure against the registration of religious seminaries (madrasahs). Further fueling the tension, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed his concerns regarding the President's veto to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), during a recent meeting.

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri issued a strong statement, asserting that the government must pass the bill; otherwise, the party will march on Islamabad. He emphasized their preference for a peaceful resolution but underscored the seriousness of their threat. Haidri also claimed that assurances

SC to hear PTI founder's plea for judicial commission on May 9 riots

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Constitutional Bench will hear a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, seeking formation of a judicial commission to investigate the May 9 riots.

A seven-member constitutional bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin, will hear a petition on December 10 regarding the formation of a judicial commission to investigate the May 9 incident.

Imran Khan had filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking an investigation into the May 9 incident. Additionally, the PTI founder has also requested that the Supreme Court declare the trial by the civilian military court as null and void.

Meanwhile, the Constitutional Bench will also hear a petition, seeking formation of a judicial commission to investigate the allegations of rigging in the February 8 general elec-



tions. A seven-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Aminuddin will take up the plea filed by a citizen named Qayyum Khan on December 12.

The citizens had approached the court against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and others over allegations of rigging.

The petitioner requested the court to order the formation of a judicial commission to investigate the allegations of rigging in the 2024 elections.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Sher Afzal Marwat and others have also filed similar petitions against electoral 'rigging'.

JCP forms committee for drafting rules regarding judges appointments

City Desk

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan constituted on Friday a committee for drafting rules to regulate procedures and criteria for the appointment of judges.

"The Judicial Commission of Pakistan unanimously decided to accord highest priority towards the framing of rules relating to regulating its procedure including the procedure and criteria for assessment, evaluation and fitness for appointment of Judges," a Supreme Court press release said.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi presided over the meeting.

The committee would draft rules and share the same with the secretariat of the JCP by December 15, 2024. SC judge Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail is appointed committee's chairman and other members include Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, PTI Senator Syed Ali Zafar, PPP Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, and Senior ASC Akhtar Hussain.

In its first meeting on November 5, the JCP — reconstituted under the 26th Amendment — appointed Justice Aminuddin Khan as head of the seven-judge constitutional bench by a majority vote of seven to five, with the CJP among the dissenting members.

The committee would have the support of the officials including JCP Secretary Niaz Muhammad Khan, SC research officers Zafar Iqbal and Qaiser Abbas.

The commission also approved the nomination of SC judge Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan for the constitutional benches of the apex court.

In its second meeting, the agenda of the appointment of additional judges for the Peshawar High Court was deferred till December 21. It was also decided to extend the date of submission of nominations for the appointment of additional judges till December 10.

The JCP (Sindh) nominated Justice Adnan-ul-Karim Memon and Justice Agha Faisal as judges of the constitutional benches of the Sindh High Court by a majority vote. In the meeting of the JCP (SHC), the agenda for the appointment of additional judges for the high court was deferred till December 21. It was also decided to extend the date of submission of nominations for the appointment of additional judges till December 10.

Bushra Bibi gives Rs10 million to family of PTI worker killed in protest

Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Bibi, wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, visited the home of Tajuddin, a PTI worker who died during the Islamabad protests.

She offered condolences to his widow and mother. Bushra also presented a check for Rs10 million to Tajuddin's widow.

Bushra stated that they stand with the bereaved family during this difficult

time and that the donation is intended to provide financial assistance.

The party claims that several of its workers were killed when the government



launched an operation to clear Jinnah Avenue from protesters on the night of November 26.

Sharjeel Inam hails PPP for pushing for establishment of constitutional courts

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh's Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, lauded Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his efforts in achieving the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which led to the establishment of constitutional courts. He emphasized Sindh's pioneering role in implementing these courts, aimed at providing swift justice and resolving public issues efficiently.

Speaking to the media outside the NAB Court, Memon noted, "In the past, there were cases where individuals were sentenced to death but later acquitted on appeal. By then, the sentences had already been carried out. The establishment of constitutional courts ensures better relief for the public."

Memon highlighted the sacrifices made by PPP leaders, including former President Asif Ali Zardari, who endured 12 years of imprisonment without conviction. He pointed out that political parties have consistently faced judicial scrutiny and stated, "Those who once filed baseless cases against us are now



facing similar challenges themselves."

Memon urged trust in the judicial system, condemning attempts to intimidate or politicize courts. He called for unwavering efforts to seek justice through lawful means.

Addressing Imran Khan's approach, Memon stated, "Imran Khan's mentality reflects authoritarianism. He expects institutions like the judi-

ciary, establishment, and election commission to act per his whims. When the election commission acted independently, he labeled it controversial."

Memon criticized PTI's governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting deteriorating law and order. "Police are absent from roads after sunset, and the PTI government has demoralized the force. They have prioritized long

marches and security for protests over public safety," he remarked.

He condemned Imran Khan's past calls for civil disobedience, noting that such actions undermine national stability. "PTI has no agenda for youth beyond creating chaos," Memon stated, adding that only a positive and constructive approach can ensure sustainable progress.

On water distribution issues, Memon reiterated PPP's stance, demanding adherence to the 1992 agreement and rejecting any deviations.

Memon also criticized PTI's handling of key national security events, including the APS tragedy and the Bannu jailbreak, accusing them of prioritizing political agendas over national interests. He further accused PTI of advancing the agenda of international lobbies at the expense of Pakistan's sovereignty.

In closing, Memon emphasized PPP's commitment to addressing public grievances and upholding justice, urging PTI to shift focus from personal gains to the welfare of the people.

Inner Wheel Club Central Multan donated 30000 Rupees for the Treatment of deserving patients



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Inner Wheel Club Central Multan officials visited the Kidney Center and met with Executive Director Dr Syed Imran Zaidi and handed over a check of Rs 30,000 for the treatment of deserving patients. In this regard, Inner wheel Club Central Multan President Zeba Javed and Secretary Maryam Javed along with District Chairman Shaheen Moazzam Khakwani and District Secretary Jina Ijaz visited the Kidney Center located on Bahawalpur Bypass Muzaffargarh Road and met with Executive Director Dr Syed Imran Zaidi. On this occasion, Dr. Imran Zaidi briefed the Inner Wheel delegation about the Kidney Center. The delegation informed Dr. Imran about the welfare and social services of Inner wheel and handed over a check of Rs 30,000 for the post-transplant care of deserving patients coming to the Kidney Center. On this occasion, Inner wheel Club President Mrs. Zeba Javed said that Inner wheel Club Central Multan is playing a full role along with the government for the treatment and care of deserving patients and will continue to serve them in the future. Inner Wheel Club Central is also providing financial assistance to the patients for medicines and operations and will continue to provide assistance to the deserving patients in the future.

Woman bike rally

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Police, Punjab Police, City Traffic Police, women from various universities, colleges and other institutions are participating in a bike rally for women empowerment at D-Ground Faisalabad.



Photo: Online

APWA Multan and Fitwell Hub to provide employment business

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Fitwell Hub and APWA Multan to provide employment, business opportunities and modern health facilities to women. In this regard, a signing ceremony was held at the Nawana City, the center of All Pakistan Women Association (APWA), Multan. On this occasion, APWA Chairperson Mrs Farrukh Mukhtar and Fitwell Hub Chairperson Saleem signed the MoU. Under the agreement, Fitwell Hub will create employment and business opportunities for women across Pakistan and provide health facilities. This partnership was launched under the supervision of APWA Chairperson Ms. Farrukh Mukhtar, Director Noman Sher, and MD Saeed Gul. Under this project, women will be provided with training in the health sector, assistance in establishing digital clinics and mobile healthcare services, which will help women come forward in the health sector and play a role in the welfare of the community. On this occasion, the responsible persons of both the organizations introduced their respective organizations and explained their objectives, while the signing ceremony was attended by Vice Chairperson APWA Farah Faisal, Secretary General Nazia Yasir, Joint General Secretary Tehmina Munir, Executive Members Tahira Najam, Yasmin Bukhari, Dr. Shehla Aftab, Nadia Wasim, Azhra Malik, Farah Rehman, Farah Saqib and others.



Cultural and Children's Day Celebrated at Public School Hyderabad



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Public School Hyderabad (Junior Section) celebrated Children's Day and Cultural Day with great enthusiasm and zeal. Students participated actively by wearing traditional Sindhi attire, adding vibrance to the occasion. The school premises were beautifully decorated with Sindhi cultural artifacts, enhancing the traditional ambiance.

The event was graced by the presence of Public School Hyderabad Principal Mr. Iqbal Memon, Vice Principal Mr. Fazaluddin Memon, and Junior Section Headmistress Ms. Nusrat Baloch.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Iqbal Memon expressed immense pride in being Sindhi and highlighted the importance of celebrating Cultural Day to familiarize the younger generation with Sindhi's rich heritage and instill a sense of pride and enthusiasm in them. He reaffirmed the school's commitment to celebrating this day with the same vigor every year.

Vice Principal Fazaluddin Memon and Headmistress Nusrat Baloch emphasized that organizing such events helps students gain knowledge about their culture and heritage.

The celebration concluded with the iconic Ho Jamalo dance, where students and teachers danced together, receiving hearty applause from the audience.

17th Aalimi Urdu Conference concluded

KARACHI: The 2nd day of the four-day 17th Aalimi Urdu Conference 2024, organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, concluded with an exceptional Aalimi Mushaira at YMCA Ground. The session was presided over by renowned poet Anwar Shaor, and featured an impressive lineup of poets who captivated the audience with their poetry.

The poets who performed included Samreen nadeem samar, Rahat zahid, Suman shah, Tariq sabzwari, Shahida hasan, Sabir zafar, Salman gillani, Umair najmi, Ali zaryoun, Fatema hasan, Sabeen saif, Hina ambreen tariq, Bakhan mehranvi, Amar peerzado, Farzana naina, Ghazal Ansari, Shadab ahsani, Ahmed jahngiri, Khalid moen, Najma usman, Fazil jamili, Saleem figar, Abid Rasheed, Vakeel Ansari, Aqeel abbas Jafri, Meer ahmed naved, Ashfaq Hussain, Naeem Sameer, Seeman naved, Atif taudqer, Rehana qamar, Shaista musfi. Their soulful renditions of poetry received loud applause from the audience, who couldn't contain their admiration.

International Seerat un Nabi Conference Concluded at Women University Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Two days 4th International Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) conference titled "The Challenges Facing Equal Justice Peace & Security in Contemporary Society and their Solutions in the light of Holy Prophet (PBUH) Life" under the auspices of the Department of Islamic Studies & Arabic, the Women University Multan has been concluded. According to the spokesperson, the issued statement said that Muslims must take guidance from the Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) to walk the path of progress. They must turn to their history, their values, and their spirituality so that they can lead the world as well as the hereafter. The special guest of the closing ceremony, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, said "Proph-



et Muhammad (PBUH) gave the world a model social set-up and Muslims can adopt this set-up just through acting upon the Sunnah." She called Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) a role model

for all Muslims, adding one could become a best human being and bring reforms in the society only by following teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). She noted the Education-

al System of the State in Light of Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him)", she highlights the Prophet's exemplary leadership and governance, which transformed Medina into a welfare state based on education and wisdom. She said through this conference, the students will develop a deep understanding of the Prophet's teachings about equal justice and social peace and adopting the moral principles in our lives. She also said the important articles received in this conference will be published in the HEC-approved magazine "Al-Hidayah" of the Department of Islamic Studies after approval under the relevant procedures. The keynote speaker Prof. Dr Saeed ur Rehman said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the cause of the creation of the universe and his life is a beacon of light for us.

Participation of people with disabilities: forming a better society

December 3 is observed as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities worldwide. The United Nations adopted a resolution in October 1992, declaring this day to be observed. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities and to take practical steps to improve their performance.

The theme for 2024 is "Promoting the leadership of persons with disa-

bilities towards an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable post-COVID-19 world." The aim of this theme is to highlight the capabilities of people with disabilities, integrate them into the national mainstream, and encourage them to utilize their leadership skills.

Pakistan has numerous examples



Analysis Nabila Malik

of people with disabilities who have overcome obstacles through determination, courage, and strong willpower. Muniba Mazari, the first female wheelchair-bound Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations, is an inspiration to many. Saima Saleem Saif became Pakistan's first visually impaired diplomat after

passing the CSS exam. Dr. Khalid Jamil, a renowned doctor and news caster, introduced the term "persons with disabilities" at an international conference.

These individuals have proven that disability is not a limitation, but rather a source of strength. Pakistani people are known for their resilience and ability to find new paths and horizons. People with disabilities possess a unique perspective and abilities that others may not have. All they need is a discerning eye to recognize and nurture their hidden talents.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 5:30 am
Zohr 11:59 am
Asr 3:21 pm
Maghrib 4:59 pm
Isha 6:28 pm

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations
Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY
Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS
CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS
CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS
Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Former Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief Zahir Shah visits ECW

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: The Provincial Secretary General and former President of Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Zahir Shah paid a visit on Friday to the Regional Head Office (RHO) of ECW Track Pvt. Ltd. Accompanied by Vice President of MCCI Waheed Gul, Shah gee and a former Executive Committee Member.

Upon arrival, the dignitaries were warmly welcomed by the CEO of ECW and the Manager of the Software Technology Park (STP). The guests were given a comprehensive tour of the office facilities, where they were introduced to the software development team and other ECW staff members. During the visit, Zahir Shah shared valuable insights and suggestions on business promotion and market expansion strategies, drawing from his extensive experience in trade and commerce.

His inputs were well-received by the ECW team, who appreciated his willingness to share his expertise.

Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed again invites the friends of the Action Committee for talks

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Minister of Information Peer Syed Mazhar Saeed Shah has said while reiterating pledge and firmly said that I once again invite the friends of the Action Committee to the talks.

I appeal to the leaders of every school of thought in the state to play their role, Information Minister said.

If we march towards the entry point, who will benefit? Information Minister Azad Kashmir asked.

Must exercise the democratic right to protest like a civilized nation, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah remarked while addressing the press conference at Central Press Club Muzaffarabad. He urged that

For God's sake, don't block the roads, we recognize the right to protest, Information Minister said.

Allow sit-ins but don't block the roads, it

will harm the common citizens,

If the entry points are closed, every section including patients, students, and passengers will be affected, Information Minister added that the government will have ambulances to facilitate the protesting friends, Information Minister Azad Kashmir.

After the orders of the Supreme Court, the Presidential Ordinance does not exist, Information Minister replied.

Information Minister disclosed said The negotiations did not fail, but the first negotiation session was fruitless. The government is being accused of bringing the Presidential Ordinance in a hurry.

He said The Presidential Ordinance was brought so that the right to protest remains intact but other segments of life are not affected, no arrests are being made after suspension under the Presidential Ordinance.

Minister said the government showed



generosity at every stage, Cheap flour and cheap electricity were the statements of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq. No proposal to withdraw subsidies on cheap

flour and cheap electricity is under consideration, As long as the current government is in power, relief on flour and electricity will be maintained through good governance

and austerity, Information Minister He added. Let's sit down with the government and talk seriously, Information Minister He

Independence Day of Finland

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Finland, Hannu Ripatti cutting a cake on Independence Day of Finland in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Musical Night "Hum Bhi Pakistan Hain" held at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A Musical Night titled "Hum Bhi Pakistan Hain" was organized at the Punjab Arts Council, Rawalpindi, in connection with International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The event's chief guest was the former Director of Arts Council, Waqar Ahmed. On this occasion, Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain, Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman, and Sarfraz Khan were also present. During the musical night, performances by Nauman Mani, Nazakat Ali Shad, Maria Kanwal, Hafiz Mubashir, Abdullah, Muhammad Irfan, and Karam Ali mesmerized the audience, earning them hearty applause.



The chief guest, Waqar Ahmed, stated that the purpose of observing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is to appreciate the talents, skills, and achievements of individuals who demonstrate their abilities in all fields of life despite their disabilities. He emphasized that persons

with disabilities not only excel in education, sports, and other areas but also have a remarkable contribution to the arts, especially music. Music serves as a medium that allows them to express their emotions and share their stories with the world effectively. Disabled artists have proven that phys-

ical or mental challenges cannot limit their creative capabilities. Their music touches hearts and reminds us that disability does not define one's potential but serves as an opportunity to overcome life's realities. Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain remarked that music is food for the soul, and for persons with disabilities, it is not only a source of entertainment but also a vital means of emotional expression and confidence building. He urged everyone to commit to providing all possible support and facilities to persons with disabilities, enabling them to showcase their talents to the fullest and become an integral part of society. A large number of people from the twin cities attended the musical night.

ISSI Signs an MoU with Kashmir Institute of International Relations



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Further deepening its outreach to national think-tanks, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has concluded an MoU with the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), designed to promote policy-oriented research and dialogue, and upscale efforts for enhanced global awareness of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and its just and lasting solution.

In his welcome remarks, Mr Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, KIIR apprised the ISSI delegation headed by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, regarding the Institute's structure and its multifaceted functions. Over the past 30 years, KIIR has produced reports, and research articles, and also remained engaged with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHRC).

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the importance of institutional collaboration, and welcomed the signing of the MoU between ISSI and KIIR. He noted that while the two Institutions have worked closely in the past, there is a need to further build on and upscale mutual collaboration. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the critical importance of continuous evaluation of the developments in the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), documenting human rights violations in the occupied territory, and further strengthening advocacy efforts with logic and evidence.

As part of their future initiatives, ISSI and KIIR plan to proactively liaise and organize joint activities to scale-up advocacy efforts.

SDPI, UNFPA launch groundbreaking Data Storytelling



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has launched a comprehensive five-day workshop to enhance the impact of statistical data dissemination focused on "Storytelling with Data Visualization."

The workshop was designed to empower National Statistical Offices (NSOs) with the skills necessary to effectively communicate data, ensuring that statistical results resonate with a wide range of audiences and drive informed decision-making.

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, expressed his gratitude for the collaboration with UNFPA, emphasizing the importance of developing data literacy skills to support evidence-based decision-making. Dr. Sufyan Abu Harb, the lead trainer from Palestine, thanked participants for their commitment to the workshop and stressed that the skills learned would serve as the foundation for a broader culture of data literacy in the country.

Dr. Sajid Amin Javed, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI in his vote of thanks said storytelling with data was no longer a luxury—it was an essential skill for organizations seeking to transform raw statistics into compelling narratives that engage, inform, and inspire.

This workshop marked a significant milestone in advancing the Data for Development (D4D) program in Pakistan. As SDPI and UNFPA continue their partnership, the focus will remain on building the capacity of government, academia, and civil society to harness data as a tool for informed decision-making and development planning.

NEPRA slashes Rs 1.14 per unit in power tariff for Oct

ISLAMABAD, DEC 06 (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday notified Rs 1.14 per unit reduction in power tariff in fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for month of October under monthly mechanism.

The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has sought Rs 1.1 per unit reduction in power tariff for the said month, said a notification issue here.

The NEPRA conducted hearing on November 26 on the petition filed by the CPPA-G. It would be applicable to all consumers except life line, pre-paid and electric vehicle charging stations. It would also not be applicable to the consumers of K-Electric.

43rd Chrysanthemum flower exhibition held at Jasmine Garden in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 43rd Chrysanthemum and annual three-day flower exhibition was held at Jasmine Garden Islamabad in collaboration with the National Horticulture Society of Pakistan and the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The flower exhibition, which began on December 6, will conclude on Sunday, December 8. Chairman National Horticulture Society of Pakistan Dr. Pervaiz Ahsan, Technical Secretary Asif Razaq, Secretary Fawad Hashmi, and a large number of people associated with different schools of thought attended the event. On this occasion, Asma Ismail Butt, Vice Chairperson National Horticulture Society of Pakistan, said that we organized a special



flower exhibition every year. Nature has always been the focus of human

interest. Flowers and greenery are a reflection of nature. She said that The culture of Pakistan will be presented in a unique way in this exhibition. While

Tablos and a musical evening have been specially arranged to interest the participants. Asma butt further said that food stalls featuring traditional Pakistani cuisine have also been set up. Ms. Asma Ismail Butt expressed her special gratitude to CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and the organizers of other institutions PHA, PAF, Attock Refinery, CCB, RCB, NARC, ARID, ZTBL, KRL and other institutions for their cooperation. And said that Pakistan is rich in natural landscapes. Organizing such an exhibition is a great effort of the National Horticulture Society of Pakistan.

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Railways Moving in the Right Direction

Pakistan Railways is playing a leading role in facilitating the public while contributing to the national economy. Advancing the vision of the current government, Pakistan Railways has started efforts to reduce its expenditures and transform itself into a profitable entity. For a strong economy, the stability of institutions and their adherence to merit should be among the top priorities of any nation. Positive changes in institutions and society are achieved only through consistent and sustained efforts.

The public-private partnership model has proven successful worldwide. Following this model, Pakistan Railways is striving to progress by involving the private sector in its operations. This partnership not only enhances facilities for passengers but also stabilizes the revenue of the railways. CEO Pakistan Railways, Aamir Ali Baloch, has stated that under the public-private partnership, private operators must adhere to the standards set by the railways. All available resources are being utilized to meet the expectations of passengers and the business community effectively.

(Progress Under ML-1 and Other Railway Projects)

Under the ML-1 project, the first phase is expected to commence between Karachi and Hyderabad by March 2025. Two months ago, Chairman Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah conducted a window trailing inspection of the track from Karachi to Hyderabad to review operational aspects. The ML-1 project is considered the lifeline of Pakistan Railways, with a strong commitment to ensuring its timely completion. Similarly, two projects under the PSDP for ML-2 have been approved. Work on these projects

will enhance the track, and additional trains are planned to operate on ML-2. Pakistan Railways is prioritizing regional connectivity projects, including progress on the Kohat-Thal-Parachinar-Kharlachi project. A consulting firm is preparing a financial model and action plan for its implementation. Additionally, work has commenced to link Thar coal with the railway system. This project is expected to be operational by October 2025, enabling the transportation of 10 million tons of coal annually. This capacity will provide affordable fuel to power projects nationwide.

Premium lounge dining cars have been added to trains such as Bahauddin Zakariya Express, Tezgam, and Khyber Mail, with plans to introduce a new dining car for Allama Iqbal Express soon. These additions ensure high-quality food for passengers, enhancing their trust in the railways. Gradually, all trains are being integrated into the mobile connectivity application. Currently, 98 passenger trains operate under the Pakistan Railways system. As the world transitions to automation, Pakistan Railways must adopt modern practices. The SAP system is being fully activated, leading to significant improvements within the organization.

(Enhanced Passenger Facilities at Major Railway Stations)

Pakistan Railways is improving facilities at major railway stations. The number of benches for seating has been increased, water supply has been upgraded, and modern air-conditioned restrooms are

being constructed alongside the renovation of old ones. Additionally, strict monitoring of food and beverage quality is being enforced to ensure passengers have access to high-standard items. Efforts are also being made to improve cleanliness at stations. Train punctuality is closely monitored under the direct supervision of the CEO of Pakistan Railways.

To provide travel relief, Pakistan Railways reduced fares across all classes from August 3, 2024. Ticket prices for AC classes were decreased by Rs. 100 to Rs. 150, while economy class fares were reduced by Rs. 50.

The Sir Syed Express was launched on September 1, operating between Karachi and Rawalpindi under a public-private partnership. Pakistan Railways is set to introduce more modern coaches into its system, with coaches imported from China now being manufactured locally in railway factories. Technology transfer from China has also been successfully completed. The railways plan to launch two to three upgraded trains shortly, including a Green Line-style train with limited stops.

To ensure an uninterrupted oil supply, all depots have been computerized, implementing a modern mechanism for fuel distribution to trains with proper record-keeping. This computerized system has significantly reduced oil theft and ensured sufficient fuel availability in depots.

(Record Revenue and Future Targets for Pakistan Railways)

Pakistan Railways achieved a record revenue of Rs. 88 billion in the fiscal year

2023-24, the highest in its history. For the fiscal year 2024-25, the government has set a target of Rs. 109 billion, and the railway administration is working tirelessly to meet this goal. In the first five months of the current fiscal year, passenger and freight trains generated Rs. 33 billion in revenue, compared to Rs. 29 billion in the same period last year. The transport of 8 million tons of goods by rail in the last fiscal year reflects the business community's trust in the railway system.

Efforts to increase revenue include administrative and operational improvements and leveraging private sector investments to upgrade infrastructure, rolling stock, factories, and stations. A zero-tolerance policy is being implemented across the organization.

Pakistan Railways has signed agreements with Chinese and Pakistani companies to lay optical fiber cables. These agreements allow Chinese companies to use the right-of-way from Keamari to Peshawar Cantonment under ML-1 and Pakistani companies from Keamari to Lodhran. These contracts, initially for three years with the possibility of extension, mark a significant step in diversifying revenue streams for the railway. The collaboration with national and international companies is a positive development.

The historic Landi Kotal railway station in the Peshawar Division has been renovated and converted into a railway museum, now open to the public.

To protect its valuable land, Pakistan Railways is conducting daily operations across various divisions to reclaim land from illegal occupiers. Recovered land is reintegrated into the railway system, ensuring its productive use.

Writer is Information Officer in Pakistan Railways Headquarters, Lahore



Analysis

Syed Ijaz-ul-Hassan



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Hunza Serena Hotel: Luxury you Deserve

Further, the hotel is situated in the close proximity of the market and on a 20-15 minutes walking distance from the Baltit Fort which making is such a prize, since when I was staying there I took the liberty of going all the way to the fort by crossing the colorful bazaar which took me back to the tales of Rajas, the ancient shops, the old houses and the smell of freshly baked buns energizing the whole setting.

For reaching Hunza Serena Hotel, in case you have are coming of flight, it is approximately 2:30 hour drive from Gilgit Airport, but it's my guarantee those 2 hours will fly, since you'll all be occupied in witnessing the wonders of nature and the ancient works of man, don't forget to stop by The Silk Road.

Hunza Serena Hotel: Luxury you Deserve Arriving at the hotel, you can select from a range of accommodation, however it's better to book in advance. But for your information, in total there are 82 Rooms, of which 76 are Deluxe Rooms, 4 Executive Suites, and 2 Heritage Suites. Deluxe Room features contemporary comfort with the mesmerizing views of the valley below. Executive Suite provides extra space with stunning views of peaks, while Heritage Suite blends traditional charm with modern amenities, reflecting the region's cultural essence, on my stay I booked Executive Suite, from whose balcony it was the unhindered scene of Baltit Fort, among the gigantic show of snow laden peaks. Moreover, every room is equipped with a Safe Locker, Mini Bar, Telephone, Internet, Television and all the modern-day facilities. Further, as a safety precaution, the fabric used for making curtains is made with such advanced engineering that it is Fire Resistant. Beside every room the look is magnificent, ultimate luxury.

For Dining there are 4 restaurants, Maraka Restaurant, Karighar Lounge, Chatak and Rakaposhi Café. Maraka Restaurant is all day dining, serving a variety of delicacies from all across Pakistan along with a few traditional and international dishes. However, the restaurant took its name from the Burushaski language meaning "Gathering". Karighar Lounge, if you are my loyal reader, you must have known about Karighar, since I penned a complete article on it, however for newcomers Karighar is Serena Hotel's project for empowering the communities, where Hotel aid, teaches and train local people in honey making practices and how to adore a fabric means embroidery and stitching. Hence, this lounge is dedicated to it, where you can sit in the comfort of locally made sofas while devouring snacks and can buy a gift for your loved ones from the Karighar Gift Shop. Next comes, Chatak Café which is snack bar with an exquisite covered sitting lounge and an open area, this cafe also derived its name from the Burushaski language meaning "Seating Place" and Rakaposhi Café, a standard restaurant, which you will find in all the Serena properties in Pakistan, serving A la Carte Menu. Beside you can avail the option of Room Service and enjoy food in the comfort of room.

Beside this there is a Banquet Hall, with the name of Dilshan, and Meeting Rooms for conferences and seminars, in addition to the Maisha Spa and Health Club, where you can do workout in a well-equipped Gym, Swim in the heat control pool surrounded by the lush valley and towering peaks, Spa, Sauna and Salon to unwind and pamper yourself.

Further, in the hotel there are Gardens, with fruit bearing trees of excellent quality, red apples were my favorite among them, in addition to palm size roses and jasmine scenting the air. I believe it is enough of the story telling, thank you and pack your bag for Hunza Serena Hotel.

Writer is traveler and tourist



Analysis

Munaza Kazmi

Munaza Kazmi only the frequent traveler would have heard of Karimabad, but don't worry today I will be your travel guide and tell my readers about Karimabad. Known as Baltit in ancient times, when it serves as the center point of Hunza Valley, positioned high above on a hilltop overlooking the valley, with the majestic Baltit Fort seems like guarding the whole valley, which was formerly the palace of then Raja.

However, today Karimabad is like a small tributary in the channel of big waters, but the glam never lost. With the passage of time, it became a celebrated tourist attraction, from across the globe travelers started flying to witness the magic of snow-clad mountains, gorgeous views, and to hear the tales of Rajas and the Baltit Fort, then sooner the town got filled with trinket shops, pottery work, handicraft and some famous traditional cuisine, as well as luxury hotels.

Suppose you are in the stunning valley, hiking, boating and walking all day in the paradise, then off-course you should deserve a comfortable, noiseless good sleep, which I believe cannot be found in a roadside motel. Hence, wherever I go, first I search for the best hotel there for a safe, comfortable and relaxing holiday.

Hunza Serena Hotel: Luxury you Deserve-Nestled in the middle of Karimabad, Hunza, Pakistan, Hunza Serena Hotel, a newly built hotel of Tourism Promotion Service, is a 5-star hotel towering against the majestic background of breathtaking peaks. Standing pompously on a hilltop, hence it can be seen from quite a long distance, just at the base of the mountain and a little above the valley, in between.

Religious Seminaries Registration Controversy in Punjab, Pakistan

In Pakistan, particularly in Punjab, the owners of religious seminaries insist that their institutions should be registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. They have even managed to get certain favourable clauses approved by Parliament. However, President Asif Zardari returned the seminaries' registration bill with objections. According to National Assembly sources, the President recently sent back the bill with objections, prompting the government to consider calling a joint session of Parliament. This session, expected next week, will likely address the seminaries' registration bill.

Historical Context and Issues with the Societies Act 1860.

The Societies Act of 1860, a colonial-era law, assigns the registration of seminaries under the Industrial Development Department. However, this classification is incorrect since seminaries are not industries. During the tenure of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, religious scholars raised the issue with General Bajwa. A committee was formed, leading to an agreement between the Ittehad Tanzimat (Alliance of Religious Organizations) and the Federal Ministry of Education. This resulted in the establishment of a Federal Directorate, under which thousands of seminaries registered. However, in response to resistance, five new federations emerged.

Flaws and Practical Challenges of the Societies Act.

1. One-Year Registration Period: Registration under the Societies Act is valid for only one year, requiring annual renewals.
2. Security Clearance: The act requires comprehensive security clearance for all board members from various agencies, a lengthy and complex process.
3. Mandatory Audits: Seminaries must undergo annual audits and register as NGOs or charities under the Punjab Charity Commission.

4. Administrative Burden: Managing police and other departmental clearances is a significant challenge for seminary owners.

5. CTD Clearance: Clearance from the Counter-Terrorism Department is now mandatory, adding another layer of complexity.

The 2024 Amendment and its Implications

A recent amendment, Societies Registration (Amendment) Act 2024, introduced several new requirements:

Seminaries existing before the act's enforcement must register within six months, while newly established seminaries must do so within one year.

Multiple campuses of a seminary only require a single registration. Seminaries must conduct annual financial audits and submit reports to the registrar.

Teaching material that promotes sectarianism or religious hatred is strictly prohibited. Contemporary subjects must be included in the curriculum.

Additionally, all institutions registered under this act must also register with the Punjab Charity Commission to receive donations, zakat, or other funds.

Concerns Over the Amendment

The amendment has sparked debate due to certain exemptions, such as not requiring separate registration for seminary branches, which removes the need for security clearance for teachers at additional campuses. Critics argue this contradicts the rigorous clearance requirements for other registered institutions.

In short, the insistence on registration under the Societies Act raises significant administrative, legal, and operational challenges for religious seminaries. The focus should shift toward aligning these institutions with educational laws, such as the Private Educational Institutions Ordinance 1984, ensuring both regulatory oversight and educational integrity.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

AGHS Legal Aid Cell Honored with Prestigious Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello

By Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Poland in Islamabad celebrated a momentous occasion as AGHS Legal Aid Cell was awarded the esteemed Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello for its exceptional contributions to human rights and justice. The award, established by Villa Decius Association in Krakow, Poland, recognizes individuals and organizations that champion human rights, intercultural dialogue, and the peaceful coexistence of societies, religions, and cultures.

A distinguished event hosted by the Polish Embassy brought together ambassadors, diplomats, human rights activists, and media personnel, including Munizae Jahangir and Sulema Jahangir, daughters of the renowned human rights defender, Asma Jahangir.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador of Poland, H. E. Maciej Pisarski, extended a special welcome to dignitaries such as H. E. Olyntho Vieira (Ambassador of Brazil), H. E. Alex Berg von Linde (Ambassador of Sweden), Madam Fumiko (Deputy Representative of UNHCR), and H. E. Nicolas Galey (Ambassador of France). The ambassador highlighted the legacy of Sérgio Vieira de Mello,



a Brazilian diplomat and human rights advocate, whose life and work inspired the award.

Ambassador Pisarski praised AGHS Legal Aid Cell for its dedica-

tion to providing free legal aid to the underprivileged, especially women and empowering a new generation of activists. Founded in 1980 by Asma Jahangir and her female colleagues,

AGHS has become a beacon of hope for marginalized communities in Pakistan. The ambassador lauded AGHS for its fearless pursuit of justice and its role in upholding human



dignity.

Executive Director of AGHS, Nida Ally, expressed gratitude for the honor, emphasizing that the award is a testament to the relentless efforts of the organization since the passing of its founder. She acknowledged the pivotal role of Munizae and Sulema Jahangir in continuing Asma Jahangir's legacy and highlighted AGHS's landmark achievements, including legal victories for women, minorities, and bonded laborers.

The French Ambassador also commended AGHS's remarkable

services, underscoring the significance of the Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello in promoting human rights and tolerance.

This award not only celebrates the achievements of AGHS but also serves as a universal reminder of the importance of safeguarding human rights in a world increasingly challenged by authoritarianism. As Ambassador Pisarski aptly concluded, "There is good reason to celebrate, highlight the cause of human rights, and pay tribute to those who make a difference in people's lives."

AlHuda CIBE will Organize Global Islamic FinTech Forum in Dubai, UAE

By Spokesman Report

DUBAI: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) is organizing the Global Islamic FinTech in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This event aims to improve the country's economic conditions in both rural and urban areas. It will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Dubai on the 09th of December 2024, followed by a post event workshop on the 10th December 2024. You will hear from renowned experts and thought leaders from Over 20 international destinations, who will share their visionary insights on the future of Islamic FinTech.

Our distinguished guests including H. E. Mohamad Hussain Sherif

Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Maldives, UAE; H. E. Najmedin Mukhametalily-Ambassador, Embassy of Kazakhstan, UAE; H. E. Muhammad Mizanur Rahamn-Deputy Chief of Mission/Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Bangladesh, UAE; H. E. Ali Zeb Khan- Trade & Investment Counsellor Consulate General of Pakistan, UAE, will honor the event.

Mr. M. Zubair Mughal, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, expressed gratitude to the supporters and sponsors for their continuous trust and unprecedented support for the event. The global FinTech landscape has witnessed significant growth and transformation. Investments in FinTech have been on the rise, with substantial venture

capital funding contributing to the sector's expansion. He added further. He further said, in an era where advanced technologies, from Blockchain to Artificial Intelligence, are reshaping financial services, Islamic finance is no exception. The Islamic finance industry is experiencing remarkable growth globally, thanks to its sustainable and viable characteristics.

The forum aims to achieve several key objectives, such as recognizing significant advancements in Islamic FinTech infrastructure. In engaging panel discussions, the participants will discuss cutting-edge topics such as digital Islamic banking, Shariah-compliant FinTech solutions, and block-

chain technology in Islamic finance industry. You will also explore the latest FinTech products and services, and network with industry peers and potential partners. You further will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals, investors, and regulators to build valuable relationships and foster collaborations. This event is open to the public with a very low entrance fee. It is highly recommended that more organizations, companies, and banks participate in the forum to fully benefit from this international event in Dubai, UAE.

Don't miss this opportunity to shape the future of Islamic finance. Join us at the Global Islamic FinTech forum 2024.

Appreciation



ISLAMABAD: Photojournalist Asif Farooq received the certificate of appreciation from Ambassador of Ethiopia in Pakistan Dr. Jemal Beker.

Pakistanis Celebrate Labour Party Historical Victory in UK general election

By Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Pakistanis for Labour Hosts Parliamentary Dinner to Celebrate Labour's Historic Victory

Pakistanis for Labour, who represent Pakistanis within the Labour Party, arranged a parliamentary dinner, which was attended by Labour Party activists, Councillors, Cabinet portfolio holders and Members of Parliament; this was to celebrate the historic victory of the Labour Party in the recent general elections. The founding Chair of Pakistanis for Labour Councilor, Shahid Nadeem, said today we gather to celebrate the splendid victory of the Labour Party and thank the activists of Pakistanis for Labour who campaigned in 30 constituencies across the country after the general election was called. He said during this election cycle, Pakistanis for Labour worked with

100 potential candidates from diverse backgrounds during the selection process of Labour Party candidates.

Yasmin Qureshi MP for Bolton South East, Naz Shah MP for Bradford West, Afzal Khan MP for Manchester Rusholme, Mohammad Yasin MP for Bedford and Kempston, Rachel Hopkins MP for Luton South and South Bedfordshire, and Natasha Irons MP for Croydon East spoke and highlight the contribution of Pakistanis for Labour in this general election campaign and said the community engagement, is an important part which Pakistanis for Labour is doing very well. They encourage other community members to come forward and be part of the campaign to engage the wider community and play an active role within the Labour Party and British Politics. The speakers said that now it is very important to further develop the

administrative and governmental contacts and relations between the British Pakistani community and the Labour Party and we all need to participate fully in the activities of the Labour Party so that the problems faced by the community can be solved. A strong voice can be raised for an effective solution. They reiterated their commitment to strengthening the relationship between the British Pakistani community and the core values of the Labour Party.

Cllr Dr Shabina Asad Qayyum, Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cllr Shaheena Haroon, Cllr Javed Hussain, Cllr Tauseef Anwar, Cllr Chris Webster, Cllr Asif Siddique, Cllr Asim Mahmood, Cllr Asghar Shah and Cllr Shahid Nadeem, thanked the hard work which Pakistanis for Labour activists done and said that Pakistanis for Labour is focused on strengthening the relationship between the British Pakistani community and



the core values of the Labour Party. We are committed to fostering vibrant political engagement, encouraging the British Pakistani community to participate earnestly in Labour Party activities, and advocating for the significance of

their participation and representation within the party. We continue to develop campaigns addressing specific concerns of the community while supporting their representation in local, regional, and national elections. By enhancing under-



standing of pertinent issues and facilitating dialogue between the British Pakistani community and the Labour Party, we foster community cohesion and a shared purpose among members. They said we have to make every effort to solve the community problems through dialogue and mutual understanding to have an effective role and representation of British Pakistanis at local, regional, and national levels. They stressed on the importance of addressing community concerns and the need to further promote community

harmony. Founder of International Business & Professional Corporation and ILCUK Ch. Rizwan Sulehria, Khalil Choudhary, Romana Kousar, Shagufta Nasreen, Sajid Butt, Mushtaq Lasharie, and Zahida Noori, exclusively participated along with others. The first Secretary Political of the Pakistan High Commission, Mr Sarfaraz Ahmad Khan, also spoke at the event and shared the message of the Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, H. E. Dr. Mohammad Faisal, with this regard

Bahria Town's Grand Project in Dubai: A New Benchmark in Global Construction Standards

By Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Pakistan's largest and most renowned real estate company, Bahria Town, has announced a historic project in Dubai, marking a new chapter in its international expansion. Bahria Town's subsidiary, BT Properties, is developing a state-of-the-art, master-planned community in the Golf District of Dubai South as the master developer. This project will feature all the elements essential for an ideal lifestyle, combining residential and commercial facilities of the highest standard.

The occasion was honored by the presence of H. E. Khalifa Al Zaffin, Executive Chairman of Dubai Aviation City Corporation and Dubai South; Malik Riaz Hussain, Founder and Chairman of Bahria Town; Ahmed Ali Riaz Malik, Group Chief Executive

Officer of BT Properties; Nabil Al Kindi, CEO of Dubai South Properties, Shahid Mahmood Qureshi; Country Head Bahria Town, along with distinguished senior executives from both organizations.

Dubai South: The city of the Future. Dubai South is one of the largest master-planned projects in the United Arab Emirates, located near the world's largest airport, Al Maktoum International Airport, which is set to become the biggest aviation hub globally. Dubai South is being developed not only as a residential and commercial hub but also as a key destination for global investors.

Khalifa Al Zaffin, Executive Chairman of Dubai South, said "We welcome Bahria Town, a highly reputed company, to this project. Dubai South is ready to

emerge as the city of the future, and this project will elevate the standards of investment and living to new heights."

Malik Riaz Hussain, Chairman of Bahria Town, expressed his enthusiasm for the project, stating "At Bahria Town, we believe in creating communities that inspire a better future. Our venture into Dubai represents not just an expansion, but a commitment to redefining urban living on a global scale. This project is a testament to our unwavering dedication to innovation, quality, and excellence. With Dubai South as our canvas, we are crafting a masterpiece that will set new benchmarks for luxury, sustainability, and community living. Together, we are shaping a legacy that transcends borders and generations."

Bahria Town's Unique Development Vision

This community will comprise world-class residential and commercial infrastructure, including villas, townhouses, apartments, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, commercial spaces, mosques, recreational areas, greenery, water canals, iconic monuments, and wide boulevards. All these elements are designed to provide residents with a peaceful, secure, and modern lifestyle.

Ahmed Ali Riaz Malik, Group CEO of BT Properties, stated "This project not only showcases our expertise in construction but also reflects our commitment to delivering modern lifestyles and world-class facilities to our residents."

This grand project will not only be a significant addition to Dubai's construction landscape but will also further enhance Bahria Town's global reputation.



Through this initiative, Bahria Town is setting new standards

of quality and sustainability in modern city development, rein-

forcing its position as a leader in the real estate industry.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
109,053.95	108,238.96	
Day's High	Day's Low	
109,478.08	108,550.86	
Index Value	Change	
38,919,160,843	+814.99	
Percentage	Time	
+0.75%	6 Dec, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,308.61	-40.77	
Percentage	Time	
-0.49%	6 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
44,647.44	-118.27	
Percentage	Time	
-0.26%	6 Dec, 12:37 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,091.17	-304.43	
Percentage	Time	
-0.77%	6 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	179.00	181.25
Bahrain Dinar	733.95	741.95
Canadian Dollar	198.10	200.50
China Yuan	37.99	38.39
Danish Krone	39.15	39.55
Euro	291.55	294.30
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.8
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.92
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.50	905.00
Malaysian Ringgit	61.75	62.35
New Zealand \$	162.4	164.4
Norwegians Krone	24.93	25.23
Omani Riyal	718.35	726.85
Qatari Riyal	75.7	76.4
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	207.25	209.25
Swedish Korona	25.1	25.4
Swiss Franc	312.72	315.52
Thai Bhat	7.95	8.10
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	351.50	355
US Dollar	277.60	279.10

Junction of Jinnah Super Market to be enhanced to support economic growth: Muhammad Ali Randhawa

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, stated that the business community of Islamabad serves as the backbone of the national economy. He emphasized that key commercial hubs like Jinnah Super Market play a fundamental role in economic growth. The CDA is committed to providing all possible support for the development of such markets and resolving the issues faced by the business community on a priority basis. He expressed these views while addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Traders Welfare Association, Jinnah Super Market, as the chief guest.

President ICCI, Nasir Qureshi, administered the oath to the newly elected officials of the Traders Welfare Association for the 2024-26 term, including President Asad Aziz, who was elected unopposed for the third consecutive term, along with General Secretary Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Senior Vice President Faseeh Ullah Khan, Vice Presidents Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf and Abdul Malik, Additional General Secretary Zohaib Arshad Malik, Joint Secretaries Jawad Zuberi and Usman



Naeem, Information Secretary Abbas Shah, and Security Secretary Sheikh Bairam.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, Founder Group Chairman Tariq Sadiq,

Chairman Clean and Green Islamabad Movement and former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as special guests. Other notable attendees included ICCI Council Members Rauf Alam, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ijaz Abbasi, Khalid

Iqbal Malik, Khalid Javed, ICCI Vice President Nasir Chaudhry, Executive Members Zulqarnain Abbasi, Roheel Butt, and Raja Naveed Satti, along with market representatives Raja Hassan Akhtar, Yousaf Rajput, Shehzad Abbasi, Altaf Shah, Naeem Awan, Ahmed Khan, Naeem Iqbal, Waheed Cheema, Abrar Bhatti, and Raja Zahid Dhanyal. CDA members and officials, including Ms. Bushra, Ms. Saniya, and Mashooq Ali Sheikh, were also present.

In his speech, Muhammad Ali Randhawa congratulated the newly elected cabinet and expressed hope that they would play an active role in addressing the issues of the business community and improving the markets. He reiterated his desire to work alongside the business community for the betterment of Islamabad and assured them of CDA's full support in resolving their challenges.

The newly elected President, Asad Aziz, assured traders that their issues would be resolved on a priority basis under his leadership. He expressed gratitude to the business community, stating that his unopposed victory was a testament to their trust. General Secretary Abdul Rehman Siddiqui also pledged in his speech to advocate for traders' rights on every platform and strengthen the organization further.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chaired a progress review meeting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Friday



Photo: PID

Pakistan food exporters extend visit in Malaysia due to positive response from Malaysian market

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistani food exporters, delegation currently on a two-week tour to Malaysia, has extended their stay by another week for second consecutive time due to the exceptional response received from their Malaysian counterparts.

According to a message received here Friday from Kuala Lumpur, the leader of the delegation Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman said extension reflects the growing interest and demand for Pakistani food products including high quality international standards various varieties of Nimko in Malaysia. Several promising business deals are in the pipeline, prompting the delegation to prolong their visit to finalize agreements and establish long-term partnerships. He said this development highlights the potential of Pakistan's food export sector in tapping into the Malaysian market, fostering bilateral trade, and contributing to economic growth. The delegation's extended stay demonstrates their commitment to ensuring these discussions translate into tangible outcomes.

Careem partners with PSO to simplify Captains' journey



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Careem and Pakistan State Oil (PSO) have collaborated to offer PSO's products and services on discounts to the Captains registered on the Careem Platform. This collaboration aims to reduce operational costs for Captains while ensuring access to high-quality automotive oils and services, reaffirming

Careem's commitment to supporting its Captains and enhancing their livelihoods.

Through this partnership, Captains can enjoy a 15% discount on high-quality engine oil for one year as well as a free top wash with every oil change to keep their vehicles in optimal condition.

Each Captain can redeem this benefit once a month using their unique voucher.

The offer applies to select products and is available at designated retail outlets in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.

"We are always looking for ways to simplify and improve the lives of our Captains and will continue to support Captains by providing them with meaningful solutions to uplift their earnings," said Imran Saleem, General Manager at Careem Pakistan.

World Women Entrepreneurship Day Celebrated at SMEDA

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Small and Ned has reaffirmed its dedication to uplifting women entrepreneurs of Pakistan by addressing the challenges to be faced by them in business operation. Federal Minister Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Secretary Mr. Saif Anjum and CEO SMEDA Mr. Soerat Aman Rana in a meeting held at SMEDA today expressed a common commitment to create a conducive business environment for women entrepreneurs in the country.

The Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain said; this year's celebration of the world women entrepreneurship day takes on special significance as SMEDA, under patronage of MOIP is poised to introduce a transformative Women

Entrepreneurship Policy, aimed at fostering growth, enhancing financial inclusion, and increasing market access for women entrepreneurs across the country.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, praised SMEDA's efforts to uplift women entrepreneurs and admired the resilience of Pakistani women. "Women Entrepreneurship Day, he said celebrates the immense potential of Pakistani women, especially those in rural areas who sustain families and contribute significantly to our economy. The government is committed to breaking down barriers and fostering an ecosystem where women-led businesses can thrive," he said.

Federal Secretary of Industries & Production, Mr. Saif Anjum, in his statement, underscored the ministry's commitment to building supportive policies for women entrepreneurs.

RCCI's Three-Day Food Fest 2024 Begins at Ayub Park

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) inaugurated its much-anticipated three-day food festival at Ayub Park. Commissioner Rawalpindi Aamir Khattak and RCCI President Usman Shaukat, accompanied by ambassadors and distinguished guests, officially launched the event.

The opening ceremony was graced by Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents, the executive committee, and notable representatives from various business associations, including Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, President of Anjuman Tajran Punjab and Rawalpindi, Sardar Saqib, President of Small Chamber,

and members of the Women Chamber. Ambassadors from Morocco, South Korea, and Yemen visited the festival on the first day, touring the vibrant food stalls.

Commissioner Aamir Khattak lauded the efforts of RCCI, stating "The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce deserves praise for fostering business activities and creating entertainment opportunities for SMEs in the region."

RCCI President Usman Shaukat emphasized the festival's significance "Our goal is to promote traditional and regional cuisines, introduce new flavors, and support entrepreneurs in developing SMEs. Food businesses represent a substantial portion of our SME sector, and this festival offers them an exceptional platform to showcase their offerings."

Leveraging AI by cybercriminals is a serious concern for organizations

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A recent Kaspersky study reveals that businesses are increasingly worried about the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) in cyberattacks. According to the findings, 76% of surveyed companies reported a rise in cyber incidents over the past year, with almost half of respondents (46%) noting that many of these attacks were likely AI-driven. The study underscores the reality that AI, which has revolutionized numerous industries, is now also empowering cybercriminals, adding an additional layer of complexity to the threats businesses face.

In its latest study titled "Cyber defense & AI: Are you ready to protect your organization?" Kaspersky gathered the opinions of IT Security and Information Security professionals working

for SMEs and Enterprise-level companies regarding new challenges in protecting their organizations against cyberattacks involving the use of AI.

"The cybersecurity landscape today mirrors past challenges, with businesses questioning if current solutions suffice. Ransomware, once a primary threat, now demonstrates a dangerous surge, and business decision-makers start questioning the causes of this resurgence. The recent hype around AI offers an easy, if not entirely correct explanation. Cybercriminals have become more organized, better at collaborating, developing innovative attack strategies, and lowering the barriers for less skilled and resourceful attackers. So, while it's useful to keep an eye on AI progress that



can enable both attackers and defenders with new options, there are solid strategies companies can – and should – implement immediately. Companies should prioritize securing critical IT infrastructure with robust, multi-layered solutions that offer a unified security context. An XDR ecosystem, combined with skilled expertise – whether in-house or through a managed service – can greatly enhance defenses. Additionally, ongoing employee training adds another critical layer of protection for the organization," – says Oleg Gorobets, corporate infrastructure protection expert at Kaspersky.

To protect the business against AI-enabled cyberthreats, Kaspersky recommends ensuring that every level and element of IT network is protected with solid, multi-layered

protective solutions, such as from Kaspersky Next product line, that have AI technologies under the hood designed to automatically block emerging threats. Implementing an organic XDR ecosystem from a single vendor, such as Kaspersky Next XDR Expert, is always the superior choice to provide your team with a unified view of your corporate security. Kaspersky Managed Detection & Response together with online and live Kaspersky Cybersecurity Training bolster your in-house skills with cybersecurity expertise. Turn your office workforce into an extra layer of defense with the Kaspersky Automated Security Awareness Platform, which instills cybersafe behavior. It includes specialized sections dedicated to AI-assisted threats and safe use of AI tools, helping to avoid the risks associated with the growing proliferation of AI tools.

Pakistan Women's U19 camp begins

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The 15-member Pakistan U19 squad for the six-team ACC Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup has convened at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi for a five-day camp. Zoofishan Ayyaz-led Pakistan will depart for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12 December. Pakistan's cuisine

Pakistan team will undergo net practice, fielding sessions, match simulations and T20 practice matches during the five days under the supervision of head coach Mohsin Kamal and assistant coach Muhammad Hanif Malik. Former Pakistan women's player Nahida Khan is the fielding coach of the side.

Pakistan are placed in Group A and will face India on 15 December and Nepal on 16 December before the Super Four stage begins on 19 December. The final is scheduled for 22 December.

Pakistan Women's U19 squad: Zoofishan Ayyaz (captain), Komal Khan (vice-captain), Aleesa Mukhtiar, Areesha Ansari, Fatima Khan, Fizza Fiaz, Haniah Ahmer, Maham Anees, Mahnoor Zeb, Quratulain, Ravail Farhan, Rozina Akram, Shahar Bano, Tayyaba Imdad,



Wasifa Hussain.

Player Support personnel: Aisha Jalil (manager), Mohsin Kamal (head

coach), Muhammad Hanif Malik (assistant coach), Nahida Khan (fielding coach), Muhammad Usman Shahid

(analyst), Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist), Muhammad Rafi Ullah (media and digital manager).

41st Millat Tractors Governors Cup Golf Tournament

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: It was superb show of golfing skills, prowess and ability by talented amateur golfers in the 18 holes golfing round on Friday at the par 72 Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course in the 41st Millat Tractors Governors Cup Golf Tournament. The fight for top honors was fierce indeed and at least twenty aspirants played remarkably well and the scores were exceptionally marvellous. In the full spotlight was Muhaymin Maneka of Gymkhana, a seven handicapper who sparkled in a way that can be graded as phenomenal. While his tee shots were powerfully accurate, the approach shots to the green were just splendid and the ball landed wherever he wanted it placed. The whole effort fetched him a dream-like score of net 67 and going into the second round he surfaced as the leader of value and worth.

Though Muhaymin Maneka is placed on top of leaderboard, quite a few challengers are fittingly positioned with stirring scores against their names. One stroke behind is Shahzad Azam of Royal Palm who compiled an applaudable round of net 68 and played smartly and appeared as a champion



in control of his nerves and technical command over his shot making. A few others with notably decent scores are Hamza Kardar, Shahnavaz Durrani and the experienced and adept one Amer Mehmood (all from Gymkhana), Bilawal Khan (Nowshera) and Shahid Abbas (Royal Palm) and Farooq Alvi of Skyview. These six contenders bunched together at a net score of 69 all have caliber and seek to edge past the leader over the remaining two rounds. A wonderful show from these talented ones.

Besides these eight top contenders for the Governors Cup Title, the other

forceful ones who made their presence felt are Subhan Ahmed at net 70, followed by four contenders at net 71. They are Dawar Lashari, Asim Zafar, Hassan Rehman and Fahad Yousaf. And at net 72 are eight admirable players. They are Saqib Rehman, Jashwa Ahmed, Ameer Khawar, Nauman Ilyas, Danish Javed, Ahmed Jabran, Fareed Maneka and Irfan Bhatti.

It has been a day of performances in the 41st Millat Tractors Governors Cup Golf Championship at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course. The flow of competition is ferocious indeed.

PCB Inter Club Final Round begins

Pakistan Cricket Club Karachi beat Mir Mehmood Cricket Club Hyderabad

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Club Karachi easily defeated Mir Mehmood Cricket Club Hyderabad by 9 wickets in the Final Rounds of the PCB Inter Club Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium.

The highlights of the day's play was brilliant Batting by Jahanzaib Sultan 73 and deadly bowling by Left arm leg spinner Faraz Ahmed 3/21.

Scores in Brief: Pakistan Cricket Club Karachi beat Mir Mehmood CC Hyderabad by 9 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Mir Mehmood CC 133 all out in 37.2 overs. Sheraz Khan 33 3x4 1x6, Daniyal Hussain Rajpoot 22. Faraz Ahmed Khan (sla) 3/21, Aarish Ali Khan 23, Muhammad Asghar 2/27.

In reply Pakistan Cricket Club Karachi 139/1 in 20.4 overs. Jahanzaib Sultan 73 6x4 5x6, Huzaifa Ahsan 38 3x4 1x6, Ghulam Ashraf 24 both not out.



350 players of Punjab will participate in PEF sports event: Secretary Sports



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has said that 350 male and female players of Punjab province will participate in the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) sports event.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said this while presiding over an important meeting regarding PEF Education sports event at Punjab Stadium on Friday.

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, MD PEF Education Shahid Fareed, Director Admin M Kaleem and Deputy Managing Director PFF Samina Nawaz participated in the meeting.

MD PEF Education gave a briefing to Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial regarding PEF sports events.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that Punjab Sports Department will provide full support for the smooth holding of PEF Education sports event. "The development of sports across the province is our aim. The Sports Department Punjab is taking all possible measures to achieve this goal".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial informed that the competitions of long jump, 100m race and other sports events will be organised in PEF Education Sports event. DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry will supervise the arrangements for the PEF Education Sports Event.

KHA Winter Coaching Camp continues with the support of Sports and Youth Affairs Govt of Sindh



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Karachi Hockey Association in collaboration with the Sports and Youth Affairs Department Government of Sindh organizing the KHA Free Winter Hockey coaching camp at Gulshan e Iqbal Karachi.

On the third, 4th and 5th day, participants were trained by the KHA coaches in different training sessions.

Moin Alam and Irfan Tahir former National players and prospective Coaches of KHA coaching panel busy in giving training to all the participants of free coaching camp. They looked after the physical training, moving with the ball, hockey skills including ball control etc. International goal keeper, former coach of Pakistan and HBL hockey teams Abdul Ghafoor trained the new/beginner goal keepers while Kashmala Batool a National woman player, and Batool Kazim KHA coach and Director Physical Education Govt colleges Karachi assist the participant girls in improving their understanding of basic hockey and game play during the free coaching camp.

Punjab contingent to retain the title of Quaid-e-Azam Games: Director General Sports

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The training camps of Punjab's male and female teams were in progress at different venues of Nishar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) on Friday for the preparation of upcoming Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry visited Punjab Stadium, National Hockey Stadium and Elite Training Centre to inspect the camp training of Punjab's football, hockey, boxing and karate athletes.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Naadeem Anjum, Olympian Tauqeer Dar, Olympian Kh Junaid and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry



inquired about the facilities and other arrangements from the players participating in the camps. He also watched the players playing practice matches and

asked the coaches about the fitness of the players.

Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab

Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the training camps for fifteen games of Punjab teams are underway at various venues of Nishar Park Sports Complex. "We are pretty confident that the Punjab contingent will retain the title of Quaid-e-Azam Games," expects DG Sports.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that his entire focus is on the best training of the players. "The players are being imparted training under the supervision of the best coaches".

Later, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry awarded a shield to talented junior hockey player Sufian Khan, who represented Pakistan in the recently played Junior Asia Cup. Olympian Tauqeer Dar also presented a bouquet to DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry.

Bangladesh beat Pakistan in U19 Asia Cup semifinal

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Bangladesh U19 beat Pakistan U19 in the first semi-final of the ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup by seven wickets here at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) on Friday afternoon.

Chasing a modest target of 117 runs, Bangladesh cruised to victory in 22.1 overs.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan lost opening batters inside the first three overs after being put in to bat first. Usman Khan and Shahzaib Khan were dismissed for ducks by left-arm pacer Maruf Mridha.

No. 3 battery, Mohammad Riazullah (28, 65b, 2x4s) and skipper Saad Baig (18, 41b, 3x4s) knitted 42 runs for the third wicket but were removed by player of the match Iqbal Hossain Emon. Farhan Yousaf, who walked in to bat at 74-5 hit



three sixes and one four in his run-a-ball 32 and fell in the 34th over with the score reading 113-7.

Bangladesh wrapped up Pakistan's innings for 116 in 37 overs as Iqbal bagged

four wickets for 24 runs. Maruf Mridha registered bowling figures of 2-23 while Al Fahad and Debasish Deba picked up one wicket each.

In turn, captain Azizul Hakim struck

an unbeaten 42-ball 61 including seven fours and three sixes with Mohammad Shihab James chipping in with 26 off 36 balls with the help of four boundaries. For Pakistan, Naveed Ahmed Khan, Abdul Subhan and Ali Raza dismissed one batter each.

Scores in brief:

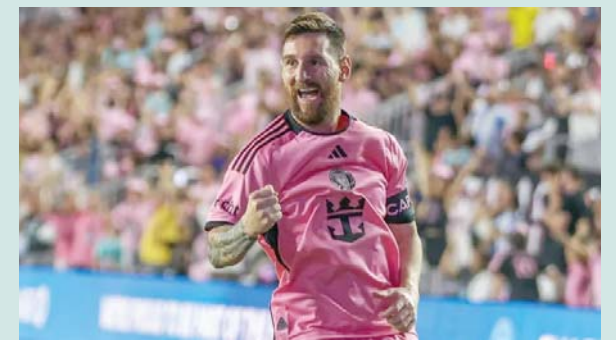
Bangladesh U19 beat Pakistan U19 by seven wickets, Dubai International Cricket Stadium

Pakistan U19 116 all out, 37 overs (Farhan Yousaf 32, Mohammad Riazullah 28; Iqbal Hossain Emon 4-24, Maruf Mridha 2-23)

Bangladesh U19 120-3, 22.1 overs (Azizul Hakim 61 not out, Mohammad Shihab James 26; Naveed Ahmed Khan 1-13)

Player of the match - Iqbal Hossain Emon (Bangladesh U19)

Messi named MLS Most Valuable Player after record-setting season



NEW YORK: Lionel Messi was named Major League Soccer's Most Valuable Player on Friday after leading Inter Miami to a record-breaking regular season campaign.

The Argentine superstar was handed the accolade after his performances helped Miami to a record regular season points tally, earning the club its first ever Supporters Shield.

"Truly, it is an honor for me to receive this award from all of you," Messi told the players at Inter Miami as quoted by Times of India. "It's a source of pride to watch you all train. I'm very happy to be here every day. I'm very happy to be in this city, in this club that is growing. [...] It's a pleasure to see you grow day by day. I invite you to keep fighting and striving for your dreams," he added.

The 37-year-old maestro finished the regular season with a league-leading 36 goal contributions after netting 20 goals and 16 assists.

Messi's MVP award comes despite an injury-hit campaign that saw him make only 19 appearances this year.

Miami and Messi's season ultimately fizzled out, when the team suffered a shock first-round defeat in the MLS Cup playoffs.

Messi is the 10th South American to win the MVP, and the fifth from Argentina after Luciano Acosta, Diego Valeri, Guillermo Barros Schelotto, and Christian Gomez.

The football star went on to lament that Inter Miami fell short in the playoff and exited in the first-round at the hands of Atlanta United.

"I would have liked to receive this award in another situation, being able to play on Saturday," Messi said as quoted by Miami Herald.

"But that's also what futbol is about, overcoming yourself every day. We had a big dream of being MLS champions this year. It didn't happen, but next year we'll come back stronger to try again [...] fight for your dreams, work hard, and in the end, sacrifice and effort are rewarded," he added.

Souvenir

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives a souvenir from Chief of Naval staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at the closing ceremony of the 7th Maritime Security Workshop in Pakistan Navy War College, on Friday.



Photo: PID

Serena Chowk Interchange Project will be completed in 3 months: Mohsin Naqvi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday visited the Serena Chowk Interchange project.

He highlighted that the Serena Chowk Interchange project will now be completed in 3 months instead of 10 months.

He tasked the CDA to complete the project ahead of schedule.

He reviewed the construction work and inspected the ongoing construction activities on the project.

He gave directions for the timely completion of the project.

The Interior Minister said that the completion of this mega project will resolve the problem of traffic in the capital for years.

He assured that people from other cities coming to Islamabad would also get convenience in transportation.

He added that Serena Chowk Interchange will now be built in just 3 months instead of 10 months and the task has been assigned in this regard.

Mohsin Naqvi said that under the Serena Chowk Interchange project, 2 underpasses and connecting roads are being built.

He stated that he was personally monitoring the project to ensure its completion within the stipulated period.

He instructed that the project should be completed within the stipulated period by continuing 24/7 construction work.

The Interior Minister stressed that during the construction work, the alternative traffic plan should be strictly implemented.

He emphasized that the best management must be made to ensure the flow of the traffic.

The Interior Minister was given a detailed briefing regarding the construction of Serena Chowk Interchange.

Chairman CDA, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.



GHQ attack case: ATC orders release of Omar Ayub, Raja Basharat



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A day after being indicted in the GHQ attack case, the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi on Friday ordered the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Omar Ayub and Raja Basharat.

Both leaders were presented before the court for their remand, however the court ordered to release them.

Their detention drew court's ire as the court expressed displeasure,

wondering, "Why were they arrested when the Peshawar High Court (PHC) had already approved their transitory bail?"

It must be remembered that the Rawalpindi police had arrested Ayub, Basharat and Ahmed Chattha outside Adiala jail on Thursday (Dec 5) after they were indicted in the GHQ attack case along with 60 others including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former premier Imran Khan.

PRCS Marks International Volunteer Day with a Call to #ProtectHumanity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) joins the global community in commemorating International Volunteer Day under the theme of #ProtectHumanity. This day serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions made by volunteers worldwide and the urgent need to safeguard those who dedicate their lives to serving humanity.

Speaking to a ceremony organized at National Headquarters on Friday, Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, said: "Volunteers embody the spirit of humanity, selflessly serving in the most challenging circumstances. Today, we honor their sacrifices and reiterate our call to safeguard humanitarian workers everywhere."

He said PRCS volunteers are at the forefront of delivering essential services, from health care to disaster response,

in communities across Pakistan. Their steadfast dedication, compassion, and service are the backbone of the National Society.

To strengthen its volunteer base, the PRCS Youth & Volunteering Development Program is actively engaged in fostering a well-trained and motivated corps of youth and volunteers. This program ensures inclusive participation from all segments of society, enhancing PRCS's capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and humanitarian needs.

The PRCS remains committed to promoting the values of humanity, impartiality, and volunteerism. On this International Volunteer Day, we not only pay tribute to those we have lost but also celebrate the resilience and spirit of the countless volunteers who continue to protect and serve communities, embodying the essence of #ProtectHumanity.

NA Committee on Science and Technology meeting called off over absence of key officials

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 5th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Science and Technology was called off on Friday due to the absence of the key officials.

The meeting, chaired by MNA Khawaja Sheraz Mehmood, expressed unanimous displeasure over the non-attendance of the concerned officials.

The committee was set to discuss key agenda items, including a comprehensive briefing from the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) on its performance over the past three years. The briefing was to cover the Authority's achievements, challenges in fostering technological innovation and industrial collaboration, operational setup, resource allocation, and structural or administrative hurdles impacting its efficiency. However, no progress could be made due to the absence of the concerned Secretary. The committee expressed annoy-

ance over the absence, highlighted that it undermines the importance of National Assembly Standing Committees, which are the highest forums for oversight and accountability.

It was unanimously decided that future meetings would not proceed unless both the Secretary and the Minister of Science and Technology were present.

The committee also recommended that the Minister of Science and Technology personally attend all subsequent meetings to ensure resolution of pending issues. The members emphasized that the absence of key officials disrespects the sanctity of the forum and hampers the committee's ability to fulfill its mandate.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Shahnaz Saleem Malik, Seema Mohiuddin Jamili, Ramesh Lal, Mahtab Akbar Rashid, Sadiq Ifikhar, Sher Afzal Khan, Khuram Shahzad Virk, Mian Ghous Mohammad, Muhammad Moazzam Ali Khan, and senior officers from the Ministry of Science and Technology and PSQCA.

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Bilawal emphasises need for dialogue among political forces



Bureau Report

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday emphasised the need for dialogue among political forces to address the country's challenges, highlighting the deteriorating situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking at the Pink Football event at Lyari Football Ground, he urged political parties to foster unity and prioritise economic and political stability.

Criticising the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for focusing on "extremist politics" instead of public welfare, Bilawal lamented their absence from the All Parties Conference (APC). He stressed that provincial funds should be directed towards providing relief to the people and

ensuring peace in the region.

Bilawal commended Lyari's resilience, praising the establishment of an international-standard football ground and the participation of young and female players from across Sindh. He called for greater empowerment of women, asserting that they have proven their leadership potential in Pakistan's history and will continue to excel in various fields, including sports.

Warning against forces attempting to lead the youth toward extremism, Bilawal emphasised the importance of youth development for the nation's future.

Concluding his address, he urged the Sindh government to address local infrastructure issues in Lyari, ensuring its continued development as a hub of opportunity.

Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party to focus on securing integrity of Pakistan: Abdul Aleem Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that only an economically independent and strong Pakistan can move forward with dignity and respect in the world by getting its proper representation in the comity of the nations. He added that we cannot afford the politics of chaos and disruption because doing so is not patriotism but is tantamount to enmity with the motherland. These views were expressed by Central President Abdul Aleem Khan while talking to the senior leaders of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, Central Secretary Information Syed Samsam Ali Bukhari and President Punjab IPP Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan who called on him in Islamabad.

President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the first priority of his Party is the interest of the country and the nation, we stood with the security institutions and will continue to support them in future as well. President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan directed the party leaders to complete the organizational activities in all the



districts of Punjab as soon as possible and said that the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party will fully participate in the upcoming Local Body elections of Punjab for which it is very important to organize the party workers at the Union Council level.

President IPP and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated Syed Samsam Ali Bukhari on holding the office of Central Secretary Information of IPP and said that he should highlight the party's version at every forum.

He took a detailed briefing from Punjab President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan on the organizational updates. Both the leaders Syed Samsam Ali Bukhari and Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan expressed their gratitude to Party President Abdul Aleem Khan and assured that they would fulfill their responsibilities in the light of the new instructions to popularize Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party at local level.

Shaza calls for joint Efforts to ensure Online Safety



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said that online safety is a significant challenge requiring collective efforts to address online threats.

"Children are particularly vulnerable to online dangers. Online safety is a big challenge, and joint efforts are crucial to counter these threats. We must unite to combat online threats," she said during a meeting with Miranda Sissons, Global Human Rights Policy Lead for Meta.

According to a press release, the meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly digital safety. Meta's Public Policy Head in Pakistan, Dania Mukhtar, also

attended the meeting.

Shaza Fatima highlighted the growing risks associated with online threats in today's digital age, particularly for children and young people. "The increasing prevalence of online threats places internet users, especially children, at greater risk," she added.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening cybersecurity and improving the digital ecosystem nationwide. She also stressed the importance of ensuring the availability of quality content on social media platforms.

The meeting was attended by Member IT, Syed Junaid Imam, and Member International Coordination, Imad Memon.